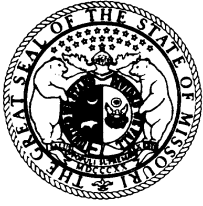


EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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For Immediate Release

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Volunteer Disaster Case Manager Training Offered Feb 7

In 2008, Missouri received six federal disaster declarations for flooding, tornadoes, and ice storms. With the number of both declared and undeclared disasters, many Missouri families continue to need help in their recovery efforts. Local Long Term Recovery Committees are searching for volunteer case managers to help with local recovery efforts. The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in partnership with the Missouri United Methodist Conference will be offering a free 8 hour volunteer Disaster Case Manager class at 8 a.m., February 7, at the Vineyard Church of Rolla, 708 North Main.

"We are looking for volunteers who have the desire to serve people in their own community. Citizens who have been affected by disaster and need help getting back on their feet," said Karen Benson, Missouri Conference Disaster Coordinator for United Methodists. Benson will be teaching the Disaster Case Manager course.

The class is limited to 40 people. At no cost to them, trainees will be required to pass a national background check.

Volunteer Disaster Case Managers build relationships with disaster survivors and make an in-depth assessment of their disaster related unmet needs. They also help survivors develop their personal recovery plan. A Disaster Case Manager works as an advocate/facilitator who researches resources available to those affected by disasters. The case manager remains in contact with the client until the disaster related needs are met. For additional questions about the class or the functions of a case manager, please contact Candy Barton, Casework Supervisor, at 703- 258-4734 or candy.barton@associates.dhs.gov

"We are looking for volunteers who want to help their neighbors. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals to do meaningful volunteer work and make a difference in their community," said Dante Gliniecki, SEMA's Statewide Volunteer Coordinator.

To register on-line go to www.sema.dps.mo.gov Click on the Training/Exercise link in the blue sidebar. The class registration is listed in the training schedule. If you have trouble registering on line, please call SEMA Training at 573-526-9126 between 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.



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